

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above listed claim amendments along with the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action set forth above. Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1, 20, 22, 23, and 26 have been amended. Claims 21, 24 and 25 have been cancelled.

The title was inadvertently amended incorrectly in the previous Amendment and is corrected herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Final Office Action, claims 20-22 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claims from which they depend. Additionally, claim 20 was rejected in view of Lewis. From the Final Office Action, applicants understood that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten even though it was rejected in view of Lewis. From the Advisory Action applicants now understand that the indication of allowability of claim 20 was a typographical error. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 20 to now include the limitation of claim 21. Claim 1 has been further amended to now include positive recitation of the paint cup and parts to be cleaned.

For these reasons claims 1-25 are allowable.

Rejection of claim 26

Claim 26 was rejected as anticipated by Amundsen, and the Office Action characterized Amundsen as having “a fluid passageway providing a fluid communication path...to the double lumen fitting such that...all the water...will be directed through the cleaning cap and the extended suction set.”

Applicants have amended claim 26 to make it clear that water is directed through the cleaning cap and both of the double lumens of the extended suction set. As such amended claim 26 clearly defines over Amundsen, since Amundsen at most would provide water through only one of the lumens of the extended suction set.

For this reason, claim 26 is allowable.

Further Remarks and Argument

In the event that the pending claims are now allowable, the examiner is requested to issue a notice of allowance. In the event that the case is not fully allowable, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action. This withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action is proper under 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b) inasmuch as the amendment of claim 1 is necessary to respond to the newly cited art in the Final Office Action, and was not earlier presented because the newly cited art was unknown to applicants prior to the outstanding Final Office Action.

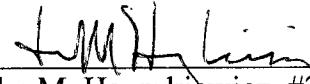
At page 7 of the Final Office Action a question was raised regarding applicants' use of "substantially all" in claim 1. Applicants note that this term also appears in claim 26. It is believed necessary to use this terminology, since an "insubstantial" amount of fluid diverted (e.g., leaking) could avoid infringement of a claim reciting that 100% of the fluid goes into the paint cup. Applicants respectfully point out that the "substantial" terminology has long been used by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in patent practice, notably in reference to the Doctrine of Equivalents. A search of the USPTO database of patents issued since 1976 resulted in identifying over 70,000 patents with the word "substantial" in the claims. For these reasons "substantially all" is believed to be proper (and necessary) claim terminology.

Conclusion

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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